GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:874
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
KASHMIR ISSUE
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken note of the statement made by Pakistani Spokesperson in Kathmandu on January 4, 2002 that struggle of Kashmiris for self determination was their indigenous movement and could by no stretch of imagination be called terrorism and the British Prime Minister who was at Bangalore and the US Secretary of Defence in Washington supported Pak position; and

(b) if so, the Government`s reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) Pakistani spokesmen continue with their futile endeavors to justify Pakistan`s continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India. Government rejects this outright, and is firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to defeat cross border terrorism. The clear and widespread consensus in the international community today is that there is no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

The United States has on a number of occasions stated that terrorism will be fought everywhere, including in Jammu and Kashmir, and that nothing can be used to justify terrorism anywhere in the world. In the New Delhi Declaration signed by the Prime Ministers of India and the United Kingdom on 6th January 2002, both Prime Ministers rejected the arguments of those who attempt to justify terrorism, and emphasized that in all its forms terrorism must be condemned unambiguously and eradicated wherever it exists.